

# BYLAWS OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

*(Changes Adopted in June 2006)*

## PREAMBLE

The purpose of this organization is to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, by educating the residents of the 27<sup>th</sup> District regarding the aims and operations of the Democratic Party, and by fostering opportunities to participate in the Democratic party to all residents of the 27<sup>th</sup> District.

The spirit of these Bylaws is to promote maximum participation and equal representation, and to ensure equal treatment of all individuals.

## ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the 27<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Organization (hereafter 27<sup>th</sup> District).

## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** All elected and appointed 27<sup>th</sup> District Precinct Committee Officers are members of the 27<sup>th</sup> District.

**Section 2.** Any registered voter residing within the 27<sup>th</sup> District who declares him/herself a Democrat may become a member upon payment of annual dues.

**Section 3.** Nonresident Democrats may become associate members without a vote entitled to otherwise participate and receive mailings of 27<sup>th</sup> District upon payment of annual dues.

**Section 4.** Dues shall be payable at the time of joining and renewable in January of each year. The amount of dues shall be established and may be changed by a majority vote of the membership in attendance at the 27<sup>th</sup> District reorganization meeting.

**Section 5.** All records of the 27<sup>th</sup> District shall be open to inspection by any member at a reasonable time and place to members in good standing.

**Section 6.** No member may use his/her title of office or identify him/herself as representing the 27<sup>th</sup> District or any of the subordinate bodies unless authorized by the Chair or the membership.

## ARTICLE III: PRECNCT COMMITTEE OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The election and appointment of the Precinct Committee Officers (hereafter PCO's) shall be governed by the rules of the Pierce County Democratic Central

Committee (hereafter **PCDCC**) and Washington State Law. There shall be two different types of PCO's:

- (1.) An elected PCO is elected in the General Election by the voters in the precinct in which she/he resides.
- (2.) An appointed PCO is a resident of the precinct who is appointed by the County Chair upon submission of a recommendation from the District Chair.

**Section 2.** No vacant PCO position shall be filled during the period between the General Election and the January reorganization meeting.

**Section 3.** Appointed PCO's shall have all the rights and obligations of elected PCO's.

**Section 4.** An elected or appointed PCO shall be considered to have resigned in the precinct which she/he represents. Resignations shall be made public at the next general membership meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** A reorganization meeting will be convened by the **PCDCC** following the General Election at which PCO's are elected. At the reorganization meeting, only PCO's may vote to elect the officers of the 27<sup>th</sup> District and state committee man and state committee woman.

**Section 2.** A regular meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> District shall be held **monthly on the fourth Monday** of the month. A regular meeting date may be altered by the Chair provided notice to members is given no less than 7 days in advance.

**Section 3.** A special meeting may be called by **twenty-five percent (25%)** of the membership, or by **twenty-five percent (25%)** of the PCO's, or by the Chair.

#### **ARTICLE V: VOTING**

**Section 1.** All PCO's, and any member who has paid their dues at least **twenty-five (25) days** in advance of a meeting, shall be entitled to vote on all matters arising at that meeting, **unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws.**

**Section 2.** **Only PCO's may vote on the election of:** Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman, and three executive board members to the PCDCC.

**Section 3.** All Officers and Executive board members shall be elected by a majority of those PCO's present and voting. **Proxies shall not be recognized in voting on any 27<sup>th</sup> District business.**

**Section 4.** For all elections, if no person receives a majority on the first ballot cast, the person receiving the least votes, and any other person who wishes to resign his/her nomination, shall be eliminated. On each succeeding ballot, the same rule shall apply until one person receives a majority of the votes cast for the position.

#### **ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** Officers of the 27<sup>th</sup> District shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeewoman and State Committeeman. The Chair and the Vice-Chair must be of the opposite sex.

**Section 2.** Any voting member is eligible to run for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeewoman, and State Committeeman.

**Section 3.** Officers shall be elected to two-year terms beginning in January of odd numbered years.

**Section 4.** Officers shall serve until the next 27<sup>th</sup> District reorganization meeting, or until their successors are duly appointed or elected, or until removed from office.

#### **ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The CHAIR shall preside over the meetings of the 27<sup>th</sup> District. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the 27<sup>th</sup> District and shall be a member of the PCDCC executive committee. The Chair may appoint members to perform duties as he/she deems necessary. The Chair shall appoint a parliamentarian to advise the Chair on all disputes concerning parliamentary order and these Bylaws at regular and special meetings.

**Section 2.** The VICE CHAIR shall serve in the absence of the Chair and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the Chair.

**Section 3.** The SECRETARY shall keep the minutes of all meetings and all records of the organization except those assigned to other officers. The Secretary shall be responsible for the dissemination of all public announcements with respect to 27<sup>th</sup> District business and notification to members of the time, place, and purpose of all meetings.

**Section 4.** The TREASURER shall receive and disburse the funds of the organization. The Treasurer shall provide a monthly financial report. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all required reports to the Public Disclosure Commission and the preparation of an annual budget. The 27<sup>th</sup> District shall maintain bank accounts and the Treasurer and the Chair (in the absence of the Treasurer) shall be the only officers authorized to draw on this account.

**Section 5.** The three PCDCC executive board members shall represent the 27<sup>th</sup> District at PCDCC executive committee meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the 27<sup>th</sup> District to the PCDCC and for reporting PCDCC actions to the 27<sup>th</sup> District.

**Section 6.** The STATE COMMITTEEWOMAN and STATE COMMITTEEMAN shall represent the 27<sup>th</sup> District at the Washington State Central Committee and PCDCC meetings. They shall report actions of the State Committee to the 27<sup>th</sup> District at the next meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

**Section 1.** A meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> District may be called for the purpose of removing an Officer listed in Article V, Section 2 from office upon petition filed by one-third (1/3) or forty (40), whichever is less, of the elected and appointed PCO's. An Officer may be removed by a majority vote of the elected and appointed PCO's present and voting at a duly called meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IX: VACANCIES**

**Section 1.** Vacancies in any elected position of the 27<sup>th</sup> District shall be filled by election pursuant to Section V at the next regular meeting following notice to the membership.

#### **ARTICLE X: RESOLUTIONS**

**Section 1.** Resolutions shall be signed and submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 25 days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered.

#### **ARTICLE XI: ENDORSEMENTS**

**Section 1.** The 27<sup>th</sup> District may endorse candidates for elected and appointed office and positions may be taken on ballot measures.

**Section 2.** Endorsements shall require a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the members present and voting. More than one (1) candidate for the same office may be endorsed.

**Section 3.** Endorsement votes shall be by secret ballot or acclamation.

**Section 4.** Endorsements for any office or ballot measure may occur at any meeting provided that notice of the action was given as an agenda item in the meeting notice.

**Section 5.** The organization shall support and publicize its endorsements and positions in such ways as it deems appropriate. The 27<sup>th</sup> District literature distribution system shall be available only for endorsed candidates and endorsed ballot issues, however, a ballot issue or Democratic candidate may provide literature to members at any meeting.

**Section 6.** Previous endorsements may be revoked at any duly called regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the action was given as an agenda item in the meeting notice. If the revocation of an endorsement is entertained, no new or replacement endorsements for the same position will be entertained at the same meeting.

#### **ARTICLE XII: EXPENDITURES**

**Section 1.** No money shall be paid from the funds of the 27<sup>th</sup> District except by check signed by the Treasurer or the Chair (in the absence of the Treasurer). All expenditures shall be in furtherance of the activities duly authorized by the membership.

#### **ARTICLE XIII: MISCELLANEOUS**

**Section 1.** These bylaws may be updated by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the voting members at any regular reorganization meeting.

**Section 2.** Alternatively, these bylaws may be updated by a vote of seventy percent (70%) of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting provided that notice of the action was given in the meeting notice.

but WA Bylaws Art IX.B (only PCOs may amend LD bylaws)